SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Which are the countries, which are supporting our stand on agriculture in WTO? What efforts have been made to persuade them to fall in line with the point of view of India?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, the question pertains to the WTO negotiations and why India is willing to engage with other countries. These are the multilateral trade negotiations in which 153 countries are involved. This Doha Round has a mandate which is dedicated to the developing countries. India is engaging with its partners in the developing countries, in G-20 and G-33 and has formulated a collective position to ensure that the historical distortions and imbalances in the global trade are corrected and the legitimate aspirations of the developing countries are met through a fair and equitable global trading regime and for that negotiations have been going on for many years. Last July, in the Mini-Ministerial Meeting, there was a pause reached or an impasse over non-convergence on a number of issues, including SSMs, agriculture, cotton and NAMA flexibilities. India has been articulating the concerns of the developing countries. It is not a question of this country or that country, it is not a question of with whom we have a difference; it is a collective position of India along with other developing countries. These are negotiations. What we have been impressing upon is that the need is to correct the distortions and to ensure that the mandate of the Doha Round is fully met, that is, to take on board the concerns and aspirations of the developing countries, including the livelihood concerns and subsistence of small farmers in our country and other developing countries.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Withdrawal of CRPF from Kashmir

*367. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a proposal to withdraw CRPF from Kashmir and hand over the security operations to local police;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government has proposed to review the capability of local police before handing over the operations to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The CRPF is deployed in Jammu and Kashmir in aid of the State Government and its duties include both counter insurgency as well as assistance to the State Police for maintenance of law and order. The responsibility for maintenance of law and order rests with the State Government. The State Government is augmenting the State Police Force, and as and when the State Police Force is in a position to assume more responsibilities in maintaining law and order, some of the responsibilities

now handled by the CRPF would be taken over by the State Police, and some battalions of the CRPF could be withdrawn for deployment in other areas.

Purchase of defective ammunition and machineries

*368. SHRTMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has indicted the Ministry for purchasing 'Defective Quality ammunition and machineries', which has had adverse impact on operational preparedness of the army;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether it has also been found that top army commanders have misused their special financial powers; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and steps taken by Government to bring transparency in the procurement of defence purchases?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Comptroller & Auditor General's Report No.CA 17 of 2008-2009, in Para 2.2 refers to the case of "Import of defective ammunition". The said para contains audit observations on the 155mm Krasnopol ammunition procured as per contracts signed in 1999 and 2002.

An Agreement to Contract No. KBP 615612072 on repair/rectification of the 155mm Krasnopol Projectiles procured in 1999 and another Agreement to Contract No. KBP 615612073 on modified 155mm Krasnopol Projectiles firing tests aimed at settlement of the quality claim pertaining to the projectiles supplied under the contract of 2002 have been signed with the supplier, M/s KBP, Tula. Russia in November 2008. Under these Agreements, repair/rectification of Projectiles by replacement of fuze, and the firing tests are to be carried out at the supplier's own expense.

CAG Report No.CA 17 of 2008-2009 also contains Para No.3.6 on the "Misuse of special financial powers by Army Commanders". The Government takes appropriate action on audit observations raised by the CAG.

The provisions incorporated in Defence Procurement Procedure-2008 for achieving transparency in acquisition include, interalia: (i) An 'Integrity Pact' between the Government department and the bidder for all contracts above Rs.100 crore; (ii) Enhanced transparency in the conduct of field trials; (iii) Pre-bid meetings with vendors; (iv) Prohibiting the use of undue influence by the seller for obtaining any contract with the Government; (v) Prohibiting the engagement of any individual or firm to recommend to the Government the award of a contract to the seller and the payment of any amount in respect of any such recommendation.

Lifting ban on export of wheat

*369. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.